

**SB 1203 (DeSaulnier)
As Introduced – February 18, 2010**

**PAID SIGNATURE GATHERERS
Fact Sheet**

SUMMARY

SB 1203 will require an individual paid to circulate an initiative, referendum, or recall petition to wear a badge identifying him or her as a “paid signature gatherer.”

BACKGROUND

In California, the initiative process is a big business. Rarely can an initiative qualify for the ballot in California without big money behind it – experts say that it costs from \$1 million to \$3 million to qualify a measure.

Most proponents of ballot initiatives pay signature gatherers on a “per signature” basis, which some critics point to as a financial incentive to commit fraud. While efforts to ban paid signature gatherers have foundered in the courts, states have passed disclosure requirements for paid signature gatherers. In fact, at least 10 states require circulators to disclose whether they are paid or volunteer, most often on the petition itself.

Current law in California simply requires that the petition note, in print, that any potential signer has the right to ask whether the signature gatherer who approached them is being paid.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

AB 738 (Nation) of 2005 – Vetoed by the Governor.

THIS BILL

SB 1203 requires an individual who receives compensation to circulate an initiative, referendum, or recall petition to wear a badge stating, in no smaller than 30-point font, that he or she is a “paid signature gatherer.” The bill requires the individual circulating the initiative, referendum, or recall petition to wear the badge on his or her chest in clear view of all individuals signing or asked to sign the petition.

STATUS

April 6th – Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee Hearing

SUPPORT

- State Building and Construction Trades Council

OPPOSITION

- Office of Planning and Research

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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